

Serial Number: 10/056,776  
Filed : January 24, 2002

Attorney Docket No. 2002P00754US

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method for providing a conferencing session, comprising:  
receiving inputs from a number of participants in a conferencing session; and  
combining received inputs into an output packet including a first sub-packet and a second sub-packet, wherein the first sub-packet has a first payload and the second sub-packet has a second payload, the first payload and the second payload including inputs combined from at least a portion of the received inputs from the number of participants, wherein the first payload includes at least one received input that is not included in the second sub-packet.
2. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising determining a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs, the determined prominent inputs utilized to provide the first payload for the first sub-packet and the second payload for the second sub-packet.
3. (Original) The method as described in claim 2, wherein inputs are determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of loudness, signal strength, clarity, and prominence history.
4. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the second sub-packet includes at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet, wherein the at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet includes a next most prominent received input.
5. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising configuring the sub-packets in the output packet so that upon receipt of the output packet by a participant, the participant examines the packets and outputs a first examined sub-packet which does not include an indication that the sub-packet includes content received from the participant.

Serial Number : 10/056,776  
Filed : January 24, 2002

Attorney Docket No. 2002P00754US

6. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the output packet is configured as a UDP packet which encapsulates the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet, the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet configured as RTP packets.
7. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet include headers indicating originating participants of the first payload and the second payload.
8. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising transmitting the output packet to at least a portion of the number of participants in the conferencing session utilizing a multicast IP address.
9. (Original) A method for providing a conferencing session, comprising:  
receiving inputs from a number of participants in a conferencing session; and  
combining received inputs into an output packet including at least two sub-packets, the sub-packets having payloads including mixed received inputs from the number of participants, wherein the payloads of at least two of the sub-packets contain different mixed received inputs.
10. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, further comprising determining a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs, the determined prominent inputs utilized to provide the payloads for the sub-packets.
11. (Original) The method as described in claim 10, wherein inputs are determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of loudness, signal strength, clarity, and prominence history.
12. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, further comprising configuring the sub-packets in the output packet so that upon receipt of the output packet by a participant, the participant examines the packets and outputs a first examined sub-packet which does not include an indication that the sub-packet includes content received from the participant.

Serial Number: 10/056,776  
Filed : January 24, 2002

Attorney Docket No. 2002P00754US

13. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein the output packet is configured as a UDP packet which encapsulates sub-packets configured as RTP packets.
14. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein the sub-packets include headers indicating originating participants of the first payload and the second payload.
15. (Original) The method as described in claim 14, wherein the headers are contributing sources (CSRC) headers.
16. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, further comprising transmitting the output packet to at least a portion of the number of participants in the conferencing session utilizing a multicast IP address.
17. (Original) A conferencing system suitable for providing a conferencing session to a plurality of participants, comprising:  
a multipoint conferencing unit communicatively coupled over a packetized connection to a plurality of input/output devices as utilized by a number of participants so as to enable the participants of a conferencing session to interact, wherein the multipoint conferencing unit is configured to  
receive inputs from the input/output devices in a conferencing session; and  
combine received inputs into an output packet including a first sub-packet and a second sub-packet, wherein the first sub-packet has a first payload and the second sub-packet has a second payload, the first payload and the second payload including inputs combined from at least a portion of the received inputs from the number of participants, wherein the first payload includes at least one received input that is not included in the second sub-packet.

Serial Number: 10/056,776  
Filed : January 24, 2002

Attorney Docket No. 2002P00754US

18. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein the multipoint conferencing unit further determines a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs, the determined prominent inputs utilized to provide the first payload for the first sub-packet and the second payload for the second sub-packet.
19. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 18, wherein inputs are determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of loudness, signal strength, clarity, and prominence history.
20. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein the second sub-packet includes at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet, wherein the at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet includes a next most prominent received input.
21. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein the multipoint conferencing unit further configures the sub-packets in the output packet so that upon receipt of the output packet by a participant, the participant examines the packets and outputs a first examined sub-packet which does not include an indication that the sub-packet includes content received from the participant.
22. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein the output packet is configured as a UDP packet which encapsulates the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet, the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet configured as RTP packets.
23. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet include headers indicating originating participants of the first payload and the second payload.

Serial Number : 10/056,776  
Filed : January 24, 2002

Attorney Docket No. 2002P00754US

24. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein the multipoint conferencing system further transmits the output packet to at least a portion of the number of participants in the conferencing session utilizing a multicast IP address.
25. (New) A method for providing a conferencing session, comprising:  
receiving inputs from a number of participants in a conferencing session; and  
combining received inputs into an output packet including a first sub-packet and a second sub-packet, the first sub-packet having a first payload and the second sub-packet having a second payload, the first payload and the second payload including inputs combined from at least a portion of the received inputs from the number of participants, wherein the first payload includes at least one received input that is not included in the second sub-packet and the second payload includes at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet, the at least one received input that is not included in the second sub-packet being a most prominent received input and the at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet being a next most prominent received input.
26. (New) A conferencing system suitable for providing a conferencing session to a plurality of participants, comprising:  
a multipoint conferencing unit communicatively coupled over a packetized connection to a plurality of input/output devices as utilized by a number of participants so as to enable the participants of a conferencing session to interact, wherein the multipoint conferencing unit is configured to  
receive inputs from the input/output devices in a conferencing session; and  
combine received inputs into an output packet including a first sub-packet and a second sub-packet, the first sub-packet having a first payload and the second sub-packet having a second payload, the first payload and the second payload including inputs combined from at least a portion of the received inputs from the number of participants, wherein the first payload includes at least one received input that is not included in the second sub-packet and the second payload

Serial Number: 10/056,776  
Filed : January 24, 2002

Attorney Docket No. 2002P00754US

includes at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet, the at least one received input that is not included in the second sub-packet being a most prominent received input and the at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet being a next most prominent received input.